

“Signature” Profile

1. We believe in eternal truth.

1 Cor. 8:4-6 *So now, what about it? Should we eat meat that has been sacrificed to idols? Well, we all know that an idol is not really a god and that there is only one God and no other. ⁵According to some people, there are many so-called gods and many lords, both in heaven and on earth. ⁶But we know that there is only one God, the Father, who created everything, and we exist for him. And there is only one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom God made everything and through whom we have been given life.*

1 Cor. 8:7 *However, not all Christians realize this. Some are accustomed to thinking of idols as being real, so when they eat food that has been offered to idols, they think of it as the worship of real gods, and their weak consciences are violated.*

2. We practice the embrace the family.

1 Cor. 8:9-11 *But you must be careful with this freedom of yours. Do not cause a brother or sister with a weaker conscience to stumble. ¹⁰You see, this is what can happen: Weak Christians who think it is wrong to eat this food will see you eating in the temple of an idol. You know there's nothing wrong with it, but they will be encouraged to violate their conscience by eating food that has been dedicated to the idol. ¹¹So because of your superior knowledge, a weak Christian, for whom Christ died, will be destroyed.*

3. We strive for consistency.

1 Cor. 8:13 *If what I eat is going to make another Christian sin, I will never eat meat again as long as I live—for I don't want to make another Christian stumble.*

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Holy Forgery

1 Peter 2:21b *Christ, who suffered for you, is your example. Follow in his steps.*

1. Example.

Heb. 4:15 *This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same temptations we do, yet he did not sin.*

2. Examination.

John 6: 1-6 *After this, Jesus crossed over the Sea of Galilee, also known as the Sea of Tiberias. ²And a huge crowd kept following him wherever he went, because they saw his miracles as he healed the sick. ³Then Jesus went up into the hills and sat down with his disciples around him. ⁴(It was nearly time for the annual Passover celebration.) ⁵Jesus soon saw a great crowd of people climbing the hill, looking for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, “Philip, where can we buy bread to feed all these people?” ⁶He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do.*

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John 9:6-7 *Then he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and smoothed the mud over the blind man’s eyes. ⁷He told him, “Go and wash in the pool of Siloam” (Siloam means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came back seeing!*

1. Muddy stories.

John 9:10-12 *They asked, “Who healed you? What happened?” ¹¹He told them, “The man they call Jesus made mud and smoothed it over my eyes and told me, ‘Go to the pool of Siloam and wash off the mud.’ I went and washed, and now I can see!” ¹²“Where is he now?” they asked.*

2. Understand the critics.

John 9:16-19 *Some of the Pharisees said, “This man Jesus is not from God, for he is working on the Sabbath.” Others said, “But how could an ordinary sinner do such miraculous signs?” So there was a deep division of opinion among them. ¹⁷Then the Pharisees once again questioned the man who had been blind and demanded, “This man who opened your eyes—who do you say he is?” The man replied, “I think he must be a prophet.” ¹⁸The Jewish leaders wouldn’t believe he had been blind, so they called in his parents. ¹⁹They asked them, “Is this your son? Was he born blind? If so, how can he see?”*

3. Power of a story.

John 9:29 *We know God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we don’t know anything about him.”*

John 9:30-33 *“Why, that’s very strange!” the man replied. “He healed my eyes, and yet you don’t know anything about him! ³¹Well, God doesn’t listen to sinners, but he is ready to hear those who worship him and do his will. ³²Never since the world began has anyone been able to open the eyes of someone born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he couldn’t do it.”*

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The Dotted Line

1. The power of together.

1 Cor. 12:12-13 *The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up only one body. So it is with the body of Christ. ¹³Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into Christ’s body by one Spirit, and we have all received the same Spirit.*

2. Missed opportunities.

1 Cor. 12:14-17 *Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. ¹⁵If the foot says, “I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand,” that does not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear says, “I am not part of the body because I am only an ear and not an eye,” would that make it any less a part of the body? ¹⁷Suppose the whole body were an eye - then how would you hear? Or if your whole body were just one big ear, how could you smell anything?*

3. The most important place.

1 Cor. 12:18-22 *But God made our bodies with many parts, and he has put each part just where he wants it. ¹⁹What a strange thing a body would be if it had only one part! ²⁰Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. ²¹The eye can never say to the hand, “I don’t need you.” The head can’t say to the feet, “I don’t need you.” ²²In fact, some of the parts that seem weakest and least important are really the most necessary.*